

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-27 were presented for examination and were rejected. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the amendments and the following comments.

Claims 1, 21 and 27 have been amended to clarify the invention and further distinguish it from the prior art. Support for the amendment can be found in paragraph [0040] of the Specification.

The applicants wish to thank Examiner Gyorfi for his helpful comments and suggestions during the interview at the USPTO on November 18, 2009. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b), the applicants state that the substance of the interview was a discussion of the rejected claims and the asserted references. No other substantive information was discussed.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection of Claims 1-16 and 19-27

Claim 1-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitachi ID Systems Inc., Hitachi ID Password Manager : Password Synchronization and Reset, "P-Synch Installation and Configuration Guide" (hereinafter "P-Synch") in view of J. Wong, U.S. Publication 2005/0102534 (hereinafter "Wong"). The applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A method comprising:
receiving a proposed password from a user;
performing an Internet search using a query containing one or more keywords derived from the proposed password by using a search engine tool;
and
rejecting the proposed password based on the number of web pages retrieved by the search engine tool that contain both a keyword from the query and another string that is determined based on a rule for the selection of passwords, *wherein:*
i. the proposed password is rejected when the number of the retrieved web pages exceeds a threshold, and
ii. the threshold is greater than one.
(Emphasis Supplied)

Neither P-Synch nor Wong, alone or in combination, what claim 1, as amended, recites — namely, *the rejection of a proposed password when the number of retrieved web pages exceeds a threshold*. For example, in accordance with claim 1, if a user submits a proposed password, the present invention will search for the password online. If the Internet search returns more than a certain threshold number of pages (*e.g.* 10 pages) that contain both the password and the user's name, the present invention will reject the password. (See paragraph [0040] of the Specification)

Wong, in contrast, mentions nothing about rejecting a password on the basis of the number of retrieved web pages that contain a keyword, which is based on the proposed password, and another string.

For these reasons, the applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1 is overcome.

Because claims 2-17, 19, and 20 depend on claim 1, the applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of them is also overcome.

Claim 21, as amended, recites:

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a memory; and
at least one processor, coupled to the memory, operative to:
receive a proposed password from a user;
perform an Internet search using a query containing one or more
keywords derived from the proposed password, by using a search engine
tool; and
reject the proposed password based on the number of web pages
retrieved by the search engine tool that contain both a keyword from the
query and another string that is determined based on a rule for the selection
of passwords, *wherein the proposed password is rejected when the number of
the retrieved web pages exceeds a threshold, and wherein the threshold is
greater than one.*
(Emphasis Supplied)

For the same reasons as for claim 1, the applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 21 is overcome.

Because claims 22-26 depend on claim 21, the applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of them is also overcome.

Claim 27, as amended, recites:

27. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for evaluating a
password proposed by a user, comprising a machine readable medium
containing one or more programs which when executed implement the steps
of:
receive the proposed password from the user; and
performing an Internet search using a query containing one or more
keywords derived from the proposed password, by using a search engine
tool; and
rejecting the proposed password based on the number of web pages
retrieved by the search engine tool that contain both a keyword from the
query and another string that is determined based on a rule for the selection
of passwords, *wherein the proposed password is rejected when the number of
the retrieved web pages exceeds a threshold, and wherein the threshold is
greater than one.*
(Emphasis Supplied)

For the same reasons as for claims 1 and 21, the applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 27 is overcome.

Request for Reconsideration Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Having responded to each and every ground for objection and rejection in the last Office action, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the instant application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.111 and request that the Examiner allow all of the pending claims and pass the application to issue.

If there are remaining issues, the applicants respectfully request that Examiner telephone the applicants' attorney so that those issues can be resolved as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,
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